

App'n. No. 09/941,232  
Amtd. dated November 11, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The August 11, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled, amended and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed in connection with this application on August 2, 2004. A copy of the August 2, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement With Statements Under 37 CFR 1.97(e) and 37 CFR 1.704(d), along with Form PTO/SB/08A, is attached herewith. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the August 2, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement and return an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A in the next Patent Office communication to indicate that the references cited therein have been considered and made of record.

Appln. No. 09/941,232  
Amdt. dated November 1, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112

In the Office Action, claim 8 is rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In response, claim 8 is cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 moot.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-18 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6,574,423 (Oshima et al.). Claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 09-224264 (Furuhata). Claims 6, 13 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshima et al. and further in view of Furuhata. Claims 24 and 26-41 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshima et al. in view of Furuhata. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshima et al.

In response, claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20 and 24 are cancelled, claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 21-23, 25, 26, 30, 34 and 38 are amended, and new claims 42-45 are added. Claim 42 includes limitations from claims 1, 4 and 6;

Appn. No. 09/941,232  
Amdt. dated November 11, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

claim 43 includes limitations from claims 8, 11 and 13; claim 44 includes limitations from claims 14, 17 and 19; and claim 45 includes limitations from claims 20 and 24. The claims which were dependent on cancelled claims 1, 8, 14 and 20 have been amended to be dependent on one of claims 42-45.

USP 6,574,423 (Oshima et al.) disclose an optical disc apparatus for recording/reproducing a stereoscopic signal and a high-quality video (HDTV) signal for a motion image. In the optical disc apparatus of Oshima et al., data pieces corresponding to first and second video signals are alternately recorded on an optical disc. When data pieces are reproduced based on the stereo signal and the high-quality video signal, first and second interleave blocks are both reproduced. It is also possible that a track is jumped to reproduce only one of the first and second interleave blocks, thereby reproducing a data piece based on a normal video (NTSC) signal. Image ID's are respectively allocated to cells in a data stream as a video signal format. They include stereoscopic ID's.

JP 09-224264 (Furuhat) discloses an image pickup device which can pick up a stereoscopic image. In the image pickup device, a lens 20 for a stereoscopic image is used, left and right light components passing through left and right optical systems are respectively made incident onto upper and lower

Appln. No. 09/941,232  
Amdt. dated November 11, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

halves of a light receiving surface, and an image pickup signal is output or recorded as a video signal. When only one frame of a motion image is recorded, the above image pickup device can be used as a still image pickup device.

Furuhata does disclose that predetermined signal processing is carried out prior to signal recording. Furuhata does not, however, refer to the contents of the signal processing, except for the supply of a sync signal.

Furuhata discloses that stereoscopic motion and still images are picked up, and images corresponding to left and right image signals are arranged in a vertical direction or a horizontal direction. However, Furuhata does not disclose that outer frames are added to left and right images.

In the Office Action, claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Furuhata. In response, claim 20 is cancelled and new claim 45 is added. New claim 45 includes limitations from claims 20 and 24. Claims 21-23 are amended to be dependent on new claim 45.

New claim 45 recites image frame setting means for setting a plurality of monocular image frames corresponding to a plurality of monocular images as building components of one multocular stereo image in an imaging area of the pickup unit by executing a predetermined trimming process of the object image

Appln. No. 09/941,232  
Amdt. dated November 11, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

signal, and stereo image generation means for generating a multocular stereo image having a predetermined data structure on the basis of a plurality of monocular images obtained in correspondence with the plurality of imaging frames. That is, the stereo image generation means generates the multocular stereo image on the basis of the plurality of monocular images.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejects claim 20 as being anticipated by Furuhata and refers to drawings 1 and 2 and paragraphs 0025-0027 as meeting the aforementioned limitations.

After careful study of Furuhata including drawings 1 and 2 and paragraphs 0025-0027 thereof, Applicant respectfully states that Furuhata does not disclose, teach or suggest the image frame setting means for setting a plurality of monocular image frames as recited in new claim 45 nor the stereo image generation means for generating a multocular stereo image as specifically recited in claim 45.

Oshima et al. do not close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by new claim 45 and Furuhata.

Therefore, claim 45 is patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claims 21-23 and 25 have been amended to be dependent on new claim 45. Claims 21-23 and 25 are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claim 45 and because

Appln. No. 09/941,232  
Amdt. dated November 11, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claims 21-23 and 25.

Independent claims 1, 8 and 14 were rejected as being anticipated by Oshima et al.

Claims 1, 8 and 14 have been cancelled and are replaced by new claims 42, 43 and 44 respectively. Claim 42 includes limitations from claims 1, 4 and 6; claim 43 includes limitations from claims 8, 11 and 13; and claim 44 includes limitations from claims 14, 17 and 19.

Each of claims 42-44 now recites that the "parallel layout type stereo image data is obtained by forming a predetermined frame line on boundary regions of the plurality of monocular images to form predetermined frame line regions which correspond to outer frames." Neither Oshima et al. nor Furuhata disclose, teach or suggest the aforementioned limitations. Therefore, claims 42-44 are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7 are dependent on claim 42 and are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claim 42 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in these dependent claims.

Appln. No. 09/941,232  
Amdt. dated November 11, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

Claims 9, 10 and 12 are dependent on claim 43 and are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claim 43 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in the dependent claims.

Claims 15, 16 and 18 are dependent on claim 44 and are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claim 44 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in the dependent claims.

Independent claims 26, 30, 34 and 38 were rejected as being obvious over Oshima et al. in view of Furuhata. Independent claims 26, 30, 34 and 38 are amended to recite that "the image data is obtained by forming predetermined frame line regions of the first and second monocular images." Neither Oshima et al. nor Furuhata disclose, teach or suggest that the image data is obtained by forming predetermined frame line regions of the first and second monocular images as now recited in independent claims 26, 30, 34 and 38.

In view of the foregoing, claims 26, 30, 34 and 38 are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claims 27-29, 31-33, 35-37 and 39-41 are dependent on one of claims 26, 30, 34 and 38. The dependent claims are patentable

Appln. No. 09/941,232  
Amdt. dated November 11, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

over the cited references in view of their dependence on one of the independent claims and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of limitations set forth in the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 21-23 and 25-45 are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

CLAIM FEE

The present application, as amended, now includes eight (8) independent claims and thirty-four (34) total claims, and the highest number of independent and total claims for which payment was previously made is eight (8) and forty-one (41) respectively. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that no fee is due. However, if it is determined that any additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

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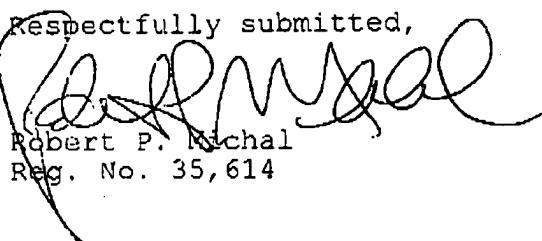
If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

Appln. No. 09/941,232  
Amdt. dated November 11, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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